

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, so that the receiving computer-based device will have a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with said profile, said method comprising:

- a. downloading a software module onto said receiving computer-based device;
- b. identifying via said software module a first directive file, comprising a profile of a first specific format, located on a remote storage device, said first profile comprising application settings, files, and other data;
- c. checking if said recipient computer's platform supports said first specific format associated with said first directive file, and if said recipient computer requires a second related format;
- d. converting said first directive file of said first specific format to a second directive file of said second related format compatible with said receiving computer-based device;
- e. receiving said second directive file of second related format, compatible with said receiving computer-based device, from said storage device to said receiving computer-based device, and

said second directive file of second related format comprising of application settings, files, and other data is installed on said receiving computer-based device such that said receiving device has a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with said stored profile.

2. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 1, wherein said step of converting further comprises:

identifying a format associated with said computer-based device requesting said directive file;

parsing said directive file associated with said requesting computer-based device to extract markup data;

identifying a stylesheet, corresponding to said identified format;

applying said identified stylesheet to said markup data from said parsed directive file;

rendering said markup data, along with said applied stylesheet, in said identified format compatible with said receiving computer-based device.

3. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 1, wherein said network is any of the following: HTTP-based, Internet, wide area networks (WANs), local area networks (LANs), virtual LANs, wireless, web, or telecommunication based.

4. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 1, wherein said receiving computer is any of the following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, web and WAP phones.

1 5. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 1, wherein said markup language is any of the following: XML, SGML, or
4 HTML.

1 6. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 1, wherein said network is an enterprise network and said remote storage
4 device is an enterprise server.

1 7. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 1, wherein said settings comprise any of the following: hardware settings,
4 system settings, attached device settings, application settings, document settings, desktop
settings, e-mail settings, addressbook settings, bookmarks, or cookies.

1 8. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 1, wherein said software module is written in an object-oriented higher level
4 language.

9. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 1, wherein said software module further includes ActiveX support.

10. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, so that the receiving computer-based device will have a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with said profile, said method comprising:

- a. downloading a software module onto a first computer-based device;
- b. identifying, via said software module, a profile of a first specific format located on said first computer-based device, said profile comprising applications settings, files, and other data;
- c. creating a first markup file comprising said identified profile;
- d. transferring said first markup file onto a remote storage device;
- e. downloading a software module onto a receiving computer-based system associated with a second specific format;
- f. identifying, via said software module, said first directive file with said identified profile of said first specific format located on said remote storage device;
- g. comparing said first specific format to said second specific format, and if said compared formats are different;
- h. converting said first directive file of said first specific format to a second directive file of said second related format compatible with said receiving computer-based device;
- i. transferring said second directive profile to said receiving computer-based device, and
- j. installing said second directive file on said receiving computer-based device such that

20 said receiving device has a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with
21 said first computer-based device.

1 11. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a
2 first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as
3 per claim 10, wherein said step of converting further comprises:

4 identifying a format associated with said computer-based device requesting said profile;
5 parsing said first directive file associated with said requesting computer-based device to
6 extract markup data;
7 identifying a stylesheet, corresponding to said identified format;
8 applying said identified stylesheet to said markup data from said parsed first directive file;
9 rendering said markup data, along with said applied stylesheet, in said identified format
10 compatible with said receiving computer-based device.

11 12. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
12 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
13 device, as per claim 10, wherein said network is any of the following: HTTP-based, Internet,
14 wide area networks (WANs), local area networks (LANs), virtual LANs, wireless, web, or
15 telecommunication based.

13. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 10, wherein said receiving computer is any of the following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, web and WAP phones.

14. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 10, wherein said markup language is any of the following: XML, SGML, or HTML.

15. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 10, wherein said network is an enterprise network and said remote storage device is an enterprise server.

16. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 10, wherein said settings comprise any of the following: hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings, document settings, desktop settings, e-mail settings, addressbook settings, bookmarks, or cookies.

1 17. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 10, wherein said software module is written in an object-oriented higher
4 level language.

1 18. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based
3 device, as per claim 10, wherein said software module further includes ActiveX support.

19. A format management system for converting and transferring, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, comprising computer-based settings, files, and other data, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, so that the receiving computer-based device will have a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with the first profile, said system comprising:

a. a network server, said network server operatively connect to one or more remote computer-based devices, said network server receiving at least one request for a specific profile from said one or more remote computer-based devices;

b. a software module, operable with said network server, determining a format of said at least one requestor;

c. a first set of one or more mark-up based directive(s), located in said network server, said directive(s) associated with said specific profile;

d. a format management module converting said first set of directives to a format compatible with said determined format, and

said software module parsing said converted directives and installing said settings, files, and other data to provide a new operating environment for the receiving computer-based device.

20. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 19, wherein said format management module further comprises of:

a markup language publisher;

a markup language parser;

a stylesheet processor, and

wherein said markup language publisher identifies a format associated with said receiving computer-based device requesting said directive file, calls said markup language parser to parse the content of said directive file, and calls said stylesheet processor to apply a stylesheet corresponding to said identified format to output markup data in said format compatible with said receiving computer-based device.

21. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-based device, as per claim 19, wherein said network is any of the following: HTTP-based, Internet, wide area networks (WANs), local area networks (LANs), virtual LANs, wireless, web, or telecommunication based.

1 22. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said receiving computer is any of the following: personal
4 computer systems, laptops, portable computers, web and WAP phones.

1 23. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said markup language is any of the following: XML,
4 SGML, or HTML.

1 24. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said network is an enterprise network and said remote
4 storage device is an enterprise server.

1 25. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said settings comprise any of the following: hardware
4 settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings, document settings,
5 desktop settings, e-mail settings, addressbook settings, bookmarks, or cookies.

1 26. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said software module is written in an object-oriented
4 higher level language.

1 27. A format management system for transferring and converting, over a network, a first
2 profile of a first specific format, to a second related format with respect to a receiving computer-
3 based device, as per claim 19, wherein said software module further includes ActiveX support.

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28. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting said profile, so that the requesting computer-based device will have a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with said profile, said method comprising:

a. receiving a request for a profile comprising settings, files, and other data from a computer-based device;

b. identifying a format compatible with said requesting computer-based device;

c. extracting a first directive file representative of said identified format;

d. parsing said first directive file to extract markup data;

e. identifying a stylesheet corresponding to said identified format;

f. rendering said markup data with said stylesheet in said format compatible with said computer-based device;

g. transporting said rendered data to said requesting computer-based device, and

h. parsing rendered data to extract said profile, and installing said settings, files, and other data in corresponding locations, such that the requesting computer-based device has a similar computing environment to that associated with said extracted first directive file.

29. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said rendered data is encapsulated in a second directive file.

1 30. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said requesting computer-based device is any of the
4 following: personal computer systems, laptops, portable computers, printer systems, facsimile
5 systems, web or WAP phones.

1 31. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said directive files are in any of the following markup
4 language formats: XML, SGML, HTML, or WML.

1 32. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
3 said profile, as per claim 29, wherein said directive files are in any of the following markup
4 language formats: XML, SGML, HTML, or WML.

1 33. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said network is any of the following: HTTP-based,
4 Internet, WANs, LANs, virtual LANs, wireless, web, or telecommunication based.

1 34. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
 3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said step of transporting said rendered data is accomplished
 4 via JavaBeans.

1 35. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
 3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said stylesheet is in an XSL format.

1 36. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
 3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said settings comprise any of the following: hardware
 4 settings, system settings, attached device settings, application settings, document settings,
 5 desktop settings, e-mail settings, addressbook settings, bookmarks, or cookies.

1 37. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
 3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said step of transporting rendered data is accomplished via
 4 the simple object access protocol (SOAP).

1 38. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting
 3 said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said network is an enterprise network and said remote
 4 storage device is an enterprise server.

39. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a computer-based device requesting said profile, as per claim 28, wherein said method further comprises the step of caching the rendered data for future access by said requesting computer-based device.

40. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with respect to a telephone requesting said profile, so that the requesting telephone will have a substantially similar operating environment to that associated with said profile, said method comprising:

- a. receiving a request for a profile comprising settings, files, and other data from a telephone;
- b. identifying a format compatible with said requesting telephone;
- c. extracting a first directive file representative of said identified format compatible with said requesting telephone;
- d. parsing said first directive file to extract markup data;
- e. identifying a stylesheet corresponding to said identified format;
- f. rendering said markup data with said stylesheet in said format compatible with said telephone;
- g. transporting said rendered data to said requesting telephone, and
- h. parsing rendered data to extract said profile, and installing said settings, files, and other data in corresponding locations, such that said requesting telephone has a similar computing environment to that associated with said extracted first directive file.

1 41. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said rendered data is
 4 encapsulated in a second directive file.

1 42. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said requesting telephone
 4 is any of the following: portable telephones, cellular phones, web or WAP phones.

1 43. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said directive files are in
 4 any of the following markup language formats: XML, SGML, HTML, or WML.

1 44. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 41, wherein said directive files are in
 4 any of the following markup language formats: XML, SGML, HTML, or WML

1 45. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said network is any of the
 4 following: HTTP-based, Internet, WANs, LANs, virtual LANs, wireless, web, or
 5 telecommunication based.

1 46. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said step of transporting
 4 said rendered data is accomplished via JavaBeans.

1 47. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said stylesheet is in an
 4 XSL format.

1 48. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
 2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
 3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said settings comprise any
 4 of the following: hardware settings, system settings, attached device settings, application
 5 settings, document settings, desktop settings, e-mail settings, addressbook settings, bookmarks,
 6 or cookies.

1 49. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said step of transporting
4 rendered data is accomplished via the simple object access protocol (SOAP).

1 50. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said network is a
4 enterprise network and said remote storage device is a enterprise server.

1 51. A format management method for transferring and converting, over a network, a profile
2 comprising settings, files, and other data of a first specific format, to a related format with
3 respect to a telephone requesting said profile, as per claim 40, wherein said method further
4 comprises the step of caching the rendered data for future access by requesting telephone.